

MINUTES OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
April 25, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.
Fire Department Headquarters

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners Ahern, Fox, LaCroix and Riccio. Commissioner Clem was absent. Also present was Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Brian Kozak.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the meeting minutes of February 22, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to enter into executive session at 5:00 p.m. to interview two candidates for the position of full time Firefighter. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Present in executive session were: Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners Ahern, LaCroix, Fox and Riccio. Also present was Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Brian Kozak.

Return to regular meeting at 5:09 p.m. For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that one firefighter out on long term sick leave and one firefighter was separated due to injury. MP Rice will be holding a 125th celebration – Fireman's Ball on November 2, 2024 at the Pine Orchard Club.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reported that since requesting an additional \$70,000 from contingency, the repairs and maintenance account is currently overdrawn by \$12,838. The budget passed the Board of Finance and the RTM Public Services Committee with no changes.

Training – Chief Mahoney reported that training continues to meet all OSHA requirements and meet all the services that the department provides. Continuing with training as part of the AFG Grant in May and in the fall. Additional training is taking place on the boat to get ready for the boating season.

Apparatus – Commissioner LaCroix reported that there are 62 pending work orders. 14 are in progress. 16 completed work orders on Engine 1, 17 on Engine 9 and 17 on Rescue 2. The new ambulance has been ordered and it is due in 30 weeks. The ambulance remount should be in in May. The new Engine 1 has been ordered, it wasn't due to be ordered until 2025 but, it takes 3 years for it to be available, there is also a cost savings for ordering it early.

EMS – Commissioner Fox, YTD ambulance revenue is \$1,975,415. There have been 4,304 incidents from July 1, 2023 through April 24, 2024. There was a cybersecurity incident in late February that impacted Medicare/Medicaid collections. We anticipate an additional revenue of \$270,131 to be collected from this incident.

Buildings – Commissioner Ahern reported that there is a sensor issue with the CO evacuation and make up air system at Station 9. The system is shut down until the repairs can be completed. Plug in CO alarms have been installed until the repair is made.

Pensions and Communications – Commissioner Massey reported that the Pension Committee met on April 18. 19 of the 42 eligible volunteers earned a stipend for 2023.

Chief’s Report – Chief Mahoney reported that there have been 5,556 calls for service from July 1 to April 24 averaging 18.5 calls per day. There were a couple of structure fires in February both on Windmill Hill Road. BFD joined the statewide campaign as fire related deaths have spiked in Connecticut with 15 deaths since January 1. Branford is redesignated as a “HeartSafe Community” by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services. The department also participated in an event at the Recreation Department to unveil AED’s in the parks.

Assistant Chief’s report – Assistant Chief Koczak reported that next week they will continue the consultation process with OSHA to conduct physical inspections of the stations. Continuing to build out the new records management software system. Chief Mahoney reported that there are still a few employees that need to have their physicals completed, they have been notified, next step will be an additional warning and after that possible demotion. Chief Mahoney thanked and recognized Assistant Chief Koczak on all the work that has been done with the new software system.

Old Business – none.

New Business:

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to extend a conditional offer of employment for the position of full time Firefighter/Paramedic to Eric Paulina Smaga. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trista Milici, Clerk